



A Celebration of our Oceans, Coasts and Great Lakes

U.S. Ocean Action Plan Symposium

Dirksen Senate Office Building – Room 106

Monday, June 6, 2005

2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

The symposium will highlight the President's Ocean Action Plan released in December 2004. Panelists will discuss progress in implementing the Administration's response to the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy Report.

Welcome and Introduction to the U.S Ocean Action Plan

James Connaughton, Chairman, White House Council on Environmental Quality

Advancing our Understanding of Oceans, Coasts, and Great Lakes

Panelists will discuss several initiatives related to expanding our scientific knowledge and promoting life-long ocean education including updates on the Integrated Ocean Observing System, a National Water Quality Monitoring Network and the Coastal America Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center Network.

Enhancing The Use And Conservation of Our Oceans, Coasts and Great Lakes

Panelists will discuss efforts to achieve a Sustainable Marine Fisheries, Promote Coral Reef Conservation and Improve Marine Managed Areas. Topics to be discussed include promoting greater use of a market-based system for fisheries management, developing local coral reef action strategies, addressing the problem of marine debris and progress in managing marine protected areas.

Managing Coasts and their Watersheds

The session will highlight Coastal and Watershed Management Initiatives, Coastal Habitat Conservation, Preventing the Spread of Invasive Species and Reducing Coastal Water Pollution. Speakers will discuss coordination of programs to address watershed issues, progress toward implementing the President's Wetlands Initiative and new public-private partnerships to address habitat and pollution issues.

Enhancing Ocean Leadership and Coordination

This session will focus on efforts to improve coordination and integration of ocean, coastal and Great Lakes' policies. The leadership of the national interagency coordinating committee will provide an overview of the new structure and discuss future plans. Representatives from the Great Lakes and Gulf of Mexico regions will report on progress in developing a regional collaborative partnership structure.

Senator John H. Chafee Coastal Stewardship Award Reception

Russell Senate Office Building - Caucus Room 325

Monday, June 6, 2005

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Join us for a Celebration of our Oceans, Coasts and Great Lakes to kick-off National Oceans Week. This evening event will recognize ocean and coastal community leaders and their significant contribution to our nation. The highlight of the evening will be the presentation of the Senator John H. Chafee Coastal Stewardship Award. Admiral James D. Watkins, Chairman of the U.S. Commission on Ocean policy will be receiving the award for his outstanding leadership in addressing the issues facing our Nation's Oceans, Coasts and Great Lakes.

***** For further information, contact Coastal America at 202-401-9928 *****